

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

**CYCLORANA MAINI AND NOTADEN SP.:
ADDITIONS TO THE FROG FAUNA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Twenty-six species of frog are known to occur in South Australia^{1,2}. About half of these species are restricted to the mesic southern regions of the state, where the fauna is relatively well known. The other half occur in the xeric northern regions of South Australia and their distributions and biology are poorly known. Collections of these desert dwelling frogs are usually made fortuitously because their activity is sporadic, in response to unpredictable rains.

This note reports opportunistic observations made when heavy rains fell in the north of South Australia during March and April 1989. It records the occurrence in South Australia of two species of frog previously unknown from the State.

Five *Cyclorana maini* were observed at the point where the Stuart Highway crosses Indulkana Creek (26°59'S, 133°23'E) on 15.iv.1989. All individuals were on the road at night during rain. These specimens were unusual in lacking a dark lateral head stripe, but in all other respects agreed with the type description.³ One specimen was collected and lodged in the South Australian Museum (SAM R34311) (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. *Cyclorana maini* from Indulkana Creek, S.A. (SAM R34311).

Large numbers of a *Notaden* species were heard calling together with a *Neobatrachus* sp., in pools of water 3–400 m from the side of the Stuart Highway between 23 km N of Marla and the Granite Downs turnoff (26°58'S, 133°23'E) on 15.iv.1989. This species was also calling in a large pool of water immediately S of the Oodnadatta road at the township of Marla (27°26'S, 133°43'E) on 22.iv.1989. No specimens could be collected, but the call left no doubt as to the generic identity of these animals, being an owl-like 'oo-oo'. Unfortunately, the species of *Notaden* are not distinguishable by call so specific identity of the *Notaden* occurring in South Australia remains in doubt.

The discovery of *Notaden* in South Australia extends the known geographic range of this genus 350 kilometres southwards from the closest record of *N. nichollsi* at Chinaman Creek, N.T. (23°42'S, 132°30'E) (Northern Territory Museum R5397). The discovery of *C. maini* in South Australia extends the known geographic range of this species 330 kilometres southwards from the closest record 27 kilometres S of Alice Springs (23°57'S, 133°55'E).⁴

As *N. nichollsi* and *C. maini* occur extensively in the Northern Territory and in central Western Australia,^{4,5} their occurrence in northern South Australia, although representing significant range extensions, is not surprising and of little biogeographic significance.

C. Daniels & P. Dempsey assisted in the field. M. Davies provided the figure. M. Davies & M. Tyler made helpful comments on the manuscript.

¹Tyler, M. J. (1989) "Australian Frogs." (Viking O'Neil, Melbourne).

²Bird, P. & Tyler, M. J. (1990) *Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust.* 114, 223–224.

³Tyler, M. J. & Martin, A. A. (1977) *Rec. S. Aust. Mus.* 17, 261–276.

⁴Tyler, M. J. & Davies M. (1986) "Frogs of the Northern Territory." (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Alice Springs).

⁵Tyler, M. J., Smith, L. A. & Johnstone, R. (1984) "Frogs of Western Australia." (Western Australian Museum, Perth).